

back in the same position next week and the week after that and the week after, which we are in today.

It is just a simple plea that the Senate exhibit some common sense, some good business practices. Let's resolve our differences now, and then let's take on the next issues that are so important to the country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, later this week, we are going to reach 1 year since President Trump was sworn into office as President of the United States. From what I have seen and from what I have heard, visiting with people at home, all around the State of Wyoming, his first year has been a huge success.

People are telling me, telling their friends, and telling their neighbors that America is finally headed in the right direction again. People tell me that they feel optimistic—optimistic because of the policies that Republicans have put in place over this past year.

The polling company Gallup says it is not just happening in Wyoming; it is happening all across the country. They had a report the other day that said Americans' confidence in our economy was positive in 2017, and they say that this was the first positive annual average since they started tracking these numbers back in 2008—the first time ever.

As soon as Donald Trump was elected President, economic confidence began to soar. It has stayed positive every single month since election day of 2016.

Gallup has said that this is the exact opposite of what they had seen for the previous 8 years.

In another poll last week, Gallup said that people are also more optimistic about the job market. They found that Americans' confidence about finding a job—a quality job—was the highest it has been in the 17 years since they have been asking that question as well.

They said that there was a “sharp increase” over the year before—in 2016, when President Obama was in charge—in people's feelings about being able to find a quality job. People are confident, and they are much more optimistic about the future. We see the signs of it everywhere we turn.

Stores had their biggest holiday sales since 2008. When people are feeling confident, they feel it is OK to go shopping. They feel there is going to be the income to cover the things they are interested in having for Christmas and

the gifts they can give. They can relax. That is the kind of optimism we are seeing now.

It is because they see that President Trump and Republicans in Congress are serious about improving America's economy. They see that we are serious about giving relief to Americans who have been getting buried under an avalanche of redtape.

The President has cut through massive amounts of regulations. Congress has rolled back 15 different major regulations from the Obama administration. That is going to save Americans as much as \$36 billion over time because of the regulatory burden that has been relieved. These are regulations that harmed Americans and wiped out American jobs. Now those regulations are gone.

When people see that Washington is finally taking the right approach to regulation, it gives them confidence. It makes them more optimistic about the future.

A lot of the regulations that Democrats wrote had to do with their war on American energy. Democrats shut down a lot of energy exploration and energy development in America. They shut down attempts to export American energy. They even wrote rules to put the United States at a competitive disadvantage when we tried to develop energy resources overseas.

Republicans have stopped Washington's war on American energy. We are opening up more areas to responsible energy production off of our coasts and in part of Alaska. Our goal should be to make American energy as clean as we can, as fast as we can, without raising costs on American families.

Republicans have put policies in place to restore that balance to America's energy policy.

Now people are talking about not just energy security, energy independence, but American energy dominance. When people see that Washington is finally taking the right approach to energy, it gives them confidence.

People see that Republicans are delivering on other promises as well, such as giving American families serious tax relief. This tax law that passed at the end of last year is giving back more than \$1 trillion to Americans over time. It is letting people keep more of their hard-earned money. It is spurring economic growth. It is going to make it simpler for a lot of families to fill out their taxes.

When people see that Washington is finally taking the right approach to taxes, it gives them more confidence, more optimism. They are confident because they are already seeing the direct result in their paychecks.

At least 166 companies have said that they are going to give raises, give out bonuses, and invest more in their workers because of the tax law. More than 2,236,000 workers across this country are getting more money in their pockets as a result of these raises and bonuses. Some of the folks who are get-

ting bonuses are people who work at Walmart. That is one of the biggest employers in my State of Wyoming. People who work there are getting bonuses, they are getting higher wages, and they are getting expanded maternity leave benefits—one advantage after another—as a result of the tax law that was passed by a Republican House, a Republican Senate, and signed by President Trump. These workers are noticing the extra money. It is going to make a difference to them and to their families. It is not just a one-time bump for people; economists say that this tax relief legislation is going to boost the economy for years to come.

There was a story on CNBC Monday that quoted an official from one European bank. He said that President Trump has “changed the perception of what's possible in Washington.”

The American economy has roared back to life. We are finally—finally—having the economic recovery that we should have had 8 years ago. That is because we finally got the policies that allow our economy to grow the way it should. We had a big recession in this country. Democrats used that as an excuse to pile a bunch of regulations on the American people. That had a lot to do with keeping the economy from recovering at the pace it should have.

During the Obama administration, there was talk about the “new normal.” People said that maybe it was just the way things were going to be in America from now on—slow, tepid economic growth, weak recovery, wages that didn't grow, people out of work for years at a time. That is what we saw in that administration. Now we know that it was never normal, it was never acceptable, and it was never the way things had to be. Things could be different, and the American people voted to make things different. In 2016, they said it was time for a change. Republicans are showing that the economy can grow faster once we get the right policies in place. America can be a greater place for all of us.

We head into President Trump's second year with an economy much stronger than it was the day he took office. We have more Americans at work. We have businesses and families confident that the economy will be even better this year. I think that is the kind of thing that people mean when they tell me they feel confident and optimistic in the direction of our country again. I see that confidence in Wyoming. We see it on Wall Street, and we see it all across the United States. Democrats might miss the Obama economy of higher taxes and more regulation. Republicans are fighting to continue the policies that are giving Americans confidence, optimism, and hope. Republicans know this is just the beginning.

(The remarks of Mr. BARRASSO pertaining to the introduction of S. 2319 are printed in today's RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

Mr. BARRASSO. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I rise very briefly to thank my friend, the chairman of the Intelligence Committee.

One more time, I urge all of our colleagues to vote for S. 139, which will be coming up for a vote in a few moments.

This is a critical tool that our intelligence community uses on a regular basis to keep America safe. It is a tool that—as someone who has more, perhaps, observance of this program than most—I do not believe has been abused or will be abused. This legislation includes meaningful reforms on furthering civil liberties protections and making sure that a year from now, the questions that many Members have asked over the years, particularly of the Bureau, will be answered.

I think this foreminded legislation needs to pass and needs to pass with an overwhelming majority.

Again, I thank the chairman for his good work. We had a 12-to-3 vote out of our committee on this legislation. We had a 60-to-38 vote that moved us forward on the cloture motion. My hope is that many other colleagues who care deeply about national security will join us in the final passage of this legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BURR. Madam President, I thank the vice chairman of the committee, Senator WARNER.

I think what we have seen is a process that has tried to take into account concerns that not just Members but the American people have had with programs that operate in a degree of secrecy, and I think most Americans understand why.

The assurance I have tried to make and the vice chairman has tried to make to our colleagues and to the American people is that we are vigilant in the rigorous oversight of not just this program but of the entire complex of intelligence in the United States. It is our job as committee members, and we do it without the clarity that most members would like to have on issues. I respect the fact that some still disagree with us, though the number is small. I also feel extremely proud today that we are getting ready to, in the next few minutes, reauthorize the single most important intelligence tool that exists for us to keep the American people safe.

I think we will look back on this as a needed tool. Today, the threat landscape looks worse than it probably ever has. The reason Americans can safely go to bed at night is that there are a

lot of dedicated folks to whom we provide tools in order to keep them safe. It starts with a vote in this body, and I encourage all of my colleagues to vote, when given the opportunity shortly, to reauthorize the 702 program.

VOTE ON MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT
NO. 1870

Madam President, I move to table the motion to concur with amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

VOTE ON MOTION TO CONCUR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on agreeing to the motion to concur in the House amendment to accompany S. 139.

Mr. BURR. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 65, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 12 Leg.]

YEAS—65

Alexander	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Flake	Peters
Blunt	Graham	Portman
Boozman	Grassley	Reed
Burr	Hassan	Risch
Capito	Hatch	Roberts
Carper	Heitkamp	Rounds
Casey	Hoeven	Rubio
Cassidy	Inhofe	Sasse
Cochran	Isakson	Schumer
Collins	Johnson	Scott
Corker	Jones	Shaheen
Cornyn	Kaine	Shelby
Cortez Masto	Kennedy	Stabenow
Cotton	King	Thune
Crapo	Klobuchar	Tillis
Cruz	Lankford	Toomey
Donnelly	Manchin	Warner
Duckworth	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Enzi	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young
Feinstein	Nelson	

NAYS—34

Baldwin	Harris	Paul
Bennet	Heinrich	Sanders
Blumenthal	Heller	Schatz
Booker	Hirono	Smith
Brown	Leahy	Sullivan
Cantwell	Lee	Tester
Cardin	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Daines	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Murkowski	Wyden
Gardner	Murphy	
Gillibrand	Murray	

NOT VOTING—1

McCain

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE TO MAKE A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF THE BILL S. 139

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 98, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 98) directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a correction in the enrollment of the bill S. 139.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 98) was agreed to.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 165, S. 1519.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 165, S. 1519, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each until 7 p.m., with the time equally divided, and that all quorum calls during that time also be equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The Senator from Oklahoma.

PROTECTING LIFE

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I want to get a chance to address an ongoing conversation that is happening in Washington, DC, right now and will be over in the next 36 hours. As unusual as this may sound, with all of the drama that is happening here, just outside this building there are tens of thousands of people—most of them students—who are gathered in Washington, DC, preparing for something called the March for Life. This has happened for decades now. Students and adults come from all over the country to Washington, DC, to quietly speak